

# Brewery Creek Brewery/Pub/Inn

## Building Address

23 Commerce Street

## Building History

The Brewery Creek Building is a three-story limestone structure built in 1854 as a warehouse. The builder, George W. Cobb, was a merchant, trader, and businessman who came to Mineral Point from Indiana around 1846. Cobb later became general manager of the Mineral Point Rail Road, a position he held for more than 25 years. The warehouse was used for many purposes including a cold storage facility, an insulation factory, and a veterinary surgery facility for "Doc Shimming."

Numerous repairs were completed on the building over the years. In the 1980s the owner tuck pointed the brickwork inside and outside. Later, the internal post and beam structure cracked and caved into the first floor. The owner at this time jacked up the beams until they fit together again and then made the needed repairs to maintain them. Yet another owner built up the rock walls in the rear of the third floor to add headroom after the roof and third floor timbers collapsed. Previous owners also put in additional window openings and closed off the loading door on the first floor. When the Donaghues purchased the stone warehouse in the spring of 1995, it had no plumbing, no heating, no electricity, no interior walls, and no windows or doors.

## Scope of Project

The Donaghues worked with architect Dave Burrows to lay out a mixed-use

plan which included a modern brewery, a brew pub, an inn, and living quarters for their family. The plan was approved for historic rehabilitation tax credits. Construction began in July 1997. The facility opened for business in June 1998.

## The Pub and Restaurant

Just inside the red doors on the first floor of the building is the Brewery Creek Pub and Restaurant. The exterior walls are made of native limestone. The original oak ceiling joists and pine plank flooring are supported by the original hand-hewn oak posts and beams. The wooden furnishings were either created by local craftsmen or are authentic pub furnishings imported from England. The focal point of the pub is the restored 20-foot antique bar.

## The Inn

In the European tradition, the Brewery Creek Inn is housed on the upper two floors. Private rooms feature whirlpool baths, fireplaces, cable TV, air conditioning, and private phones. Rooms boast exposed stone walls and original hand-hewn timbers and are furnished with a mix of antiques and reproductions.

## The Brewery

In 1835, John Phillips, most likely from Cornwall, England, built a brewery a few hundred yards upstream of the warehouse. It was the first manufacturing business in Mineral Point and also the first commercial brewery in Wisconsin. The Brewery Creek Brewery is a state-of-the-art 15-barrel brew house with the capability of producing 3,000 barrels of beer per year. The custom-made equipment allows production of both ales and lager.

For more information, call the Wisconsin Main Street Program at (608) 266-7531.

